

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 SS-20 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 NIC-01

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R 131031Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7383

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 16027

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS, PINS, TH, US

SUBJ: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND REACTION TO THEM

THE FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO CHIANG MAI FROM
UDORN OCT 13 RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

UDORN 122

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH, US

SUBJECT: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND REACTION TO THEM

REF: BANGKOK 15919

1. REACTION TO STUDENTS IN NORTHEAST TO STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
IN BANGKOK REPORTED REFTEL AND PREVIOUS HAS PICKED UP RECENTLY.
STUDENTS FROM MAHA SARAKHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION WERE
PARADING PEACEABLY IN STREET WITH PLACARDS DEMANDING NEW
CONSTITUTION ON OCTOBER 11 WHEN WE DROVE THROUGH. UNDERSTAND
SOME OF THEM AND STUDENTS FROM KHON KAEN UNIVERSITY (KKU)
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WENT TO JOIN STUDENTS IN BANGKOK.

2. UDORN TEACHERS COLLEGE (UTC) DIRECTOR SAKON NILAWAN EARLY THIS WEEK TOLD CONSULATE POLITICAL ASSISTANT THAT HE HAD WARNED STUDENTS NOT TO DEMONSTRATE OVER CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE BUT CONFIDED THAT IF THEY DID HE WOULD NOT INTERFERE. ON OCTOBER 12, HOWEVER, SAKON ORDERED COLLEGE CLOSED INDEFINITELY AFTER RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS FROM BANGKOK.

3. IN WHAT MAY BE UNRELATED INCIDENT, ON OCTOBER 11 AND 12 LEAFLETS WERE DISTRIBUTED ON UTC CAMPUS ATTACKING PEACE CORPS AND CANADIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ORGANIZATION (CUSO) TEACHERS OF ENGLISH. LEAFLETS TYPED AND MIMEOGRAPHED IN POOR ENGLISH WERE HEADED "PLEASE GO HOME" AND "MT. PHUPAN" AND SIGNED "LIONS OF PHUPHEAN". THEY ACCUSED CUSO WOMAN OF BEING A PROSTITUTE WITH YOUNG BOYS AND CALLED AMERICAN A COWARD. LEAFLETS SAID FOREIGN TEACHERS WERE "MEANINGLESS" TO COLLEGE AND SHOULD NOT TRY TO BE BIG SHOTS OR THEY WOULD BE "TAKEN FOR REDEMPTION MONEY IN MT. PHUPHEAN." (COMMENT: ASSUME THIS MEANS FOR RANSOM IN PHUPHAN MOUNTAINS NEAR UDORN.) LEAFLETS ENDED, "PLEASE GO HOME BEFORE EVERYTHING IS TOO LATE, WE DON'T WANT YOU ANY LONGER."

4. AFC DIRECTOR TOLD POLITICAL ASSISTANT THAT FOREIGNERS TEACHING ENGLISH AT COLLEGE HAD REFUSED TEACH NIGHT CLASSES PREVIOUS EVENING OCTOBER 10 AND HE HAD TO TEACH HIMSELF. ANTI-AMERICAN POSTERS ALSO REPORTEDLY DISPLAYED AT KCU AND STUDENTS JEERED AMERICAN RESEARCH STUDENT ON CAMPUS. WILL TRY TO GET MORE DETAILS AT BOTH INSTITUTIONS.

5. POLITICAL ASSISTANT ALSO REPORTED THAT AT PARTY HE ATTENDED FOR NEW UDORN GOVERNOR ANEK ON OCTOBER 9, GROUP HEARD RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT OF RTG INVOCATION ARTICLE 17 TO DEAL WITH PERSONS ARRESTED IN BANGKOK ON CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE. HEATED ARGUMENT THEN ENSUED IN WHICH UDORN MUANG DISTRICT OFFICER THAWAT PHOTHISUNTHORN SAID THAT DEPUTY PRIN PRAPHAT WAS STUPID TO HAVE ORDERED ARRESTS. SUCH STRONG CRITICISM IN FRONT OF NEW GOVERNOR RATHER UNUSUAL ALTHOUGH THAWAT CLOSE TO ANEK AFTER WORKING FOR HIM IN DEPT LOCAL ADMINISTRATION TRAINING DIVISION. BROH-KAHN UNQUOTE
UNGER
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